

the last fifty years. Their continuous efforts to uphold the standards and integrity of the Republican Party is to be commended.

I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating the Kent County Republican Women's Organization on their 50th anniversary and to thank them for their unmeasurable support and direction.

#### HONORING NATIONAL COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL CARE MONTH—2002

#### HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2002*

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women who work hard everyday to provide quality health care for the elderly, disabled and mentally ill. May is National Community Residential Care Month, and I can't think of a better way to pay tribute to these men and women.

Community care providers offer medical, social, and nutritional assistance to those in need. They are committed professionals who work hard to create comfortable environments for people who are unable to care for themselves in their own homes.

More importantly, these professionals work hard to boost the self-confidence of those whose confidence is often broken as a result of their dependence on others. By caring and interacting with those in need, they have enriched the lives of those who they help.

Again, I want to congratulate all the men and women in this field of work. The United States Congress certainly appreciates the valuable service they provide. We thank you for the job you do and for the compassion that you bring to your field.

#### HONORING ABE SELMAN

#### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2002*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mr. Abe Selman, Niles Village Manager from my home state of Illinois, for his outstanding years of service to the community. Mr. Selman will be retiring from his position on May 1st, 2002. Mr. Selman has been a Niles resident since 1962 and has dedicated himself to the public sector, bettering the Niles community. He served as a village trustee for 17 years and resigned in 1989 to become the Village Manager.

Mr. Selman worked nonstop to make Niles a community for all to enjoy and achieved this goal through his knowledge, experience, and most important of all, his passion for service. As Village Manager, he was a visionary. Mr. Selman was in charge of managing development of a Village-wide computer network project, starting from setting up a single computer to over 200 in the village. He was also responsible for the planning, financing, and construction of several municipal buildings that greatly improved the quality of life of many residents. His business savvy was felt through his efficient use of public funds and by reducing operating costs through improved business practices.

Mr. Selman will be missed. His contributions to the community have been felt by all. Thank you Abe, for all you have done for the community.

#### A BILL TO ACCELERATE THE BASIC STANDARD DEDUCTION MARRIAGE PENALTY RELIEF AND MODIFY THE WORK OPPOR- TUNITY TAX CREDIT AND THE WELFARE-TO-WORK TAX CREDIT

#### HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2002*

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my colleague from Illinois, Mr. WELLER, in introducing our bill, the "Encouraging Work and Supporting Marriage Act of 2002" to accelerate the marriage penalty relief for low- and middle-income families and to modify and simplify the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and the Welfare-To-Work Tax Credit (WtW).

Last year's tax law eliminates the marriage penalty in the standard deduction by gradually increasing the standard deduction for married couples beginning in 2005. The proposal would accelerate this relief by increasing the standard deduction beginning in 2003. The proposal would benefit low- and middle-income families and would simplify tax filing by reducing the number of taxpayers who itemize.

After a number of improvements over the past few years, the WOTC and WtW programs are being well received in providing employment, with training, for our disadvantaged. We believe the WOTC and WtW programs have been very important in helping individuals become employed and make the transition from welfare to work. Such training can be costly, and the credits provide an incentive to employers to hire the disadvantaged and provide the needed training, while offsetting costs associated with the latter effort. However, the job is not over. These individuals are usually the first ones to suffer when we see economic conditions such as we have experienced the past year.

The current WOTC provides employers with a graduated tax credit of 25 percent of the first \$6,000 in wages for eligible individuals working between 120 hours and 399 hours and a 40 percent tax credit on the first \$6,000 in wages for those working over 400 hours. The WtW tax credit is targeted toward long-term welfare recipients—providing a 35 percent tax credit on the first \$10,000 in wages during the first year of employment and a 50 percent credit on the first \$10,000 for those who stay on the job a second year.

The proposal would make the following changes: (1) combine the two credits and establish WtW as a separate targeted group, (2) repeal the requirement that a qualified ex-felon be a member of an economically disadvantaged family for purposes of eligibility for the tax credit (a time-consuming requirement that discourages hiring from this group), (3) increase the age limit for qualified food stamp recipients by five years (from 18–24 to 18–29), and (4) standardize the definition of wages as "cash wages" paid by employer to a member of the targeted group.

The present-law WOTC rules for calculating the credit would be retained for the eight categories currently eligible for the work opportunity tax credit. In the case of long-term family assistance recipients, i.e. the ninth targeted group, the credit would equal 40 percent (25 percent for employment of less than 400 hours) of qualified first-year wages. Therefore the maximum credit would be \$4,000 (40 percent of \$10,000) with respect to long-term family assistance recipients. In the second year, the maximum credit would be 40 percent of the first \$10,000 of qualified second-year wages for the long-term family assistance recipients. The net effect of the change would increase the WtW credit by frontloading the benefits, thus increasing an employer's incentive to hire long-term Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients. All of the provisions would be effective for wages paid or incurred for qualified individuals who begin work for an employer after December 31, 2002.

We believe these changes will bring tax relief to low- and middle-income families by accelerating the elimination of the marriage penalty, as well as strengthening the WOTC program, which has become a major factor in helping individuals become employed and make the transition from welfare to work. We urge our colleagues to support this legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES E. VENY

#### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2002*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James E. Veny for his exemplary service to the community. Jim Veny was born and raised in White Plains, New York, and attended White Plains High School.

In the summer of 1963, Jim joined the U.S. Navy and was selected to be a part of the Navy's Nuclear Power Submarine Program. During his tour, Jim attended various naval schools, traveled around the world, and was a featured soloist of the U.S. Navy's Naval Choir at Great Lakes, Illinois. Jim served one year in the Vietnam War, concluding a seven-year career in the Navy.

After the Navy, Jim earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with distinction from Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, New Hampshire. In 1975, he completed his formal academic studies by receiving a Masters in Business Administration degree from the Amos Tuck School at Dartmouth College.

Fortunately for those of us in the Bay Area, Jim moved to San Jose in July of 1980, working for FMC (Food Machinery Corporation, which is now United Defense). In 1983, he was appointed Community Relations Manager at United Defense, focusing the department on four areas of need in the community—the arts, diversity, social service, and education. Jim quickly learned that to do community work and to make an impact he had to get personally involved.

Jim has served on the boards of the following organizations: the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of Santa Clara County, the 100 Black Men of Silicon Valley, and the African American Community Service Agency. Over the years, Jim's greatest commitment has been to the education of young people, and he has been recognized by organizations in San Jose